



PRESS RELEASE

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SDP pays school fees for students in Western Province

PNG Sustainable Development Program Limited (SDP) is again paying school fees for students in elementary, through to secondary schools in Western province this year.

This money is to be spent on much-needed equipment, supplies and facilities, and not on administration or staffing.

The payments will be paid in two tranches. The first payment will be made on July 12 to benefit students in 517 out of the 616 schools in the province, in preparation for the start of Term 3 of the school year. Of these 517 schools, 397 are elementary, 109 are primary, eight are secondary, and three are vocational schools. Payments for the remaining 99 schools will be made as soon as SDP receives valid bank account details. This top up payment should coincide with the second payment for all schools targeted to take place towards the end of September.

Provincial Administrator of Western Province Robert Kaiyun welcomes this announcement saying “this initiative will contribute to making Western province an educated province into the future,” adding that the project is in line with the provincial government’s plan to improving education, health, and the wellbeing of the people of Western Province.”

“Our aim is to complement and supplement government services and the efforts of other agencies,” said SDP’s Director of Communications, Esther Sibona.

“To this end, we are committed to working within government policy parameters and consulting widely with elected members, public servants, development agencies and local communities.”

SDP’s spending initiatives are focused on four areas, one of them being education through scholarship programs; improving schools’ infrastructure; funding school fees; using modern technology to support teachers and students in remote locations; and developing a Balimo-campus to provide FODE, teacher; and health worker training.

Other areas include; providing access to remote communities in Western Province, improving health, and creating livelihoods in the cash economy by developing commercially viable agribusiness.